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Lancaster Rural District Council

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Sanitary Inspector

for the Year

1954

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Medical Officer of Health:

R. W. FARQUHAR, B.Sc. (Agri.), M.B., Ch. B., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector:

KENNETH H DOCTON ° †

First Assistant Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector:

CLIFFORD HYDE °

Second Assistant Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector:

GEORGE SUMNER.

° Sanitary Inspector's Certificate.

† Member Instn. Municipal and County Engineers.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

INTRODUCTORY LETTER.

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE
AREA. PAGE 7.

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN
THE AREA. PAGE 20.

SECTION C. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES. PAGE 22.

SECTION D. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.
PAGE 26.

Public Health Department,
5, Dalton Square, Lancaster.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Lancaster Rural District Council*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health Services of the Lancaster Rural District during 1954.

The levels of the various vital statistics have shown the usual fluctuations which occur as between one year and the next, but the general health of the community has remained satisfactory. The birth rate was 14.8 per 1,000 of the estimated population, compared with 15.4 for the previous year. The death rate from all causes at 13.6 per 1,000 showed a considerable rise from the low record of 10.6 in 1953. The infant death rate per 1,000 live births was 11, compared with 16 in the previous year and an average rate of 32.4 for the 5 years 1949-53. Reference to the long term changes in birth and death rates will be found on Page 13.

There was a reduction in the total number of notifications of infectious diseases during 1954, mainly due to a decrease in cases of food poisoning and a smaller incidence of measles than in the previous year. On Page 24 attention is drawn to the fact that diseases such as respiratory tuberculosis, scarlet fever, measles and whooping cough still occur as frequently in the District as they did ten years ago, although over the same period of time many fewer people have died as the result of contracting these infections.

From the detailed report of the Sanitary Inspector, in the section dealing with the sanitary circumstances of the area, it will be noted that slow but steady progress continues to be made in maintaining and improving living and working conditions in the community. I would draw your particular attention, however, to the serious troubles experienced from surcharging of foul sewers and damage to sewage plants, resulting from the exceptionally wet summer and autumn of 1954. At Dolphinholme, Bolton-le-Sands and Hest Bank station the necessary steps were taken to repair the damage and prevent its recurrence.

The long overdue improvements and additions to the sanitary facilities at several small rural schools in the area, which have been or are about to be carried out, are especially noteworthy. Schemes are in hand for the provision of fresh water closets at 4 out of the 5 schools still dependent on dry closets.

Increased attention was devoted during the year to the inspection of milk and other foods and to the routine supervision of all food premises and catering establishments. Licenses for limited periods were issued to two private slaughter houses, following the abandonment of government control of slaughter houses in July, 1954.

The demand for new houses is now so small that any further large schemes of house building would not be justified. The emphasis now is on the improvement of existing houses through the addition of modern amenities, and the demolition or closing of houses considered unfit for human habitation.

Much can be learned by looking into the past and useful information concerning the social changes in his area is available to the Medical Officer of Health who cares to consult reports and records compiled in years gone by. One such report, written in 1901, recently came to my notice and a brief description of the sanitary circumstances then existing in the District is given on Page 17.

Since then many improvements have taken place in the physical environment in which people live, but nevertheless much still remains to be accomplished in this direction. 699 premises in the District are still without a fresh water closet and there are 880 cesspools, not all of which can be regarded as satisfactory. The protection of food supplies and the supervision of all premises where food is prepared, stored or sold continue to make increasing demands on the staff.

In conclusion I wish to express to members of the Council the thanks of the Department for their continued interest in its work.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
R. W. FARQUHAR,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of the District (acres) 53,212
 Population (Registrar-General's estimate) mid year 1954 12,470
 Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books 4,071
 Rateable Value £93,421
 Sum represented by a Penny Rate £389

Parish	Area in Acres		Population		Inhabited Houses		Rateable Value in £	
	1901	1951	1901	1951	1901	1954	1901	1954
Aldcliffe	680	—	88	—	16	—	1612	—
Ashton-with-Stodday	1459	1295	181	95	37	26	3322	878
Bolton-le-Sands	1579	1843	902	1937	205	810	9661	14180
Cockerham	5561	5926	677	637	119	151	8103	2249
Cockersand Abbey	251	—	53	—	6	—	538	—
Ellel	5813	5811	1812	2091	372	646	18189	9536
Heaton-with-Oxcliffe	1683	2010	165	272	21	84	3257	3672
Middleton	1199	1400	172	478	30	136	1946	18444
Overton	1127	1799	323	356	70	136	3016	1617
Over Wyresdale	17318	17346	464	415	85	98	6481	3399
Priest Hutton	1085	1085	172	172	41	56	2331	1212
Scotforth	2137	1801	251	238	40	81	4715	4688
Silverdale	1168	1850	592	1065	136	385	5158	7693
Slyne-with-Hest	1631	1811	487	1634	103	574	9760	13008
Thurnham	1503	1983	528	475	113	146	3534	2320
Wharton-with-Lindeth (Warton)	2824	3534	1492	1671	329	579	12947	8102
Yealand Conyers	2135	1582	267	212	54	71	3996	1479
Yealand Redmayne	1581	2136	191	307	44	92	4335	1349
Total	50734	53212	8802	12055	1821	4071	101901	93421

The District is largely rural in character, and is a popular residential area. Agriculture is the most important, if not the largest industry. Other industries are quarrying, building, textiles and catering for tourists and holiday makers. By far the largest industrial undertaking is the Trimpell petroleum refinery at Middleton which absorbs a considerable proportion of labour from the Rural District and the neighbouring towns.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR YEAR, 1954.

Population: Registrar-General's Estimate, mid 1954, 12,470

	M.	F.	Total
Live Births (Legitimate)	92	90	182
(Illegitimate)	—	2	2
Total	92	92	184
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population		14.8	
Stillbirths	2	1	3
Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births		16.0	
Deaths (all causes)	85	84	169
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population		13.6	
Deaths from Maternal Causes		Nil	
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total births		Nil	
Deaths of Infants under one year of age:—	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate Infants	—	2	2
Illegitimate Infants	—	—	—
All Infants	—	2	2
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births		11.0	
Deaths from Specified Diseases.			
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)		31	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)		Nil	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		Nil	
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		Nil	

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR 1954 AND THE PERIOD 1949-1953.

	Live births		Deaths (all causes)		Still births		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	Total		Neo-natal	
									No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births
Year 1954	184	*14.8	169	†13.6	3	16.0	Nil	Nil	2	11	2	11
“ 1953	188	15.4	130	10.6	1	5.0	1	5.29	3	16	2	11
“ 1952	173	14.4	147	12.2	3	17.0	Nil	Nil	5	29	3	17
“ 1951	185	15.4	164	13.7	5	26.0	Nil	Nil	6	32	5	27
“ 1950	178	14.7	154	12.7	4	22.0	Nil	Nil	8	45	6	34
“ 1949	171	15.1	153	13.5	5	28.0	2	11.36	7	41	—	—
Average 5 years 1949-1953	—	15.0	—	12.5	—	19.6	—	3.29	—	32.4	—	—

* Adjusted live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.09) = 16.1 per 1,000 population.

† Adjusted death-rate (comparability factor, 0.85) = 11.5 per 1,000 population.

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS.

1. **Births.** In 1954 there were 184 registered live births assigned to Lancaster Rural District, a decrease of 4 from the previous year. This represents a crude birth rate of 14.8 per 1,000 of the estimated home population, compared with an average rate of 15.0 per 1,000 over the five preceding years.

In order to compare local and national birth and death rates an adjustment must be made to the former to allow for differences in age and sex distribution. The adjusted birth-rate for the district in 1954 was 16.1 per 1,000 which may be compared with the adjusted rate of any other area, or with the crude rate for England and Wales which was 15.2 per 1,000.

Of the 184 live births 2 were illegitimate, equivalent to 1.1% of the total. During the previous year illegitimate births amounted to 7 out of 188 or 3.7%.

2. **Deaths.** After correction for inward and outward transfers the total number of deaths assigned to the district for the year ended 31st December, 1954, was 169, an increase of 39 as compared with the total for the previous year. Thus the crude death rate for 1954 was 13.6 per 1,000 of the estimated home population. The adjusted death rate was 11.5 per 1,000; the crude death rate for England and Wales was 11.3 per 1,000.

The table on Page 16 shows the number of deaths in each parish by age groups, and it will be noted that no less than 125 or 74% of all deaths were of persons aged 65 years or over, and 71 or 42% of persons aged 75 years or more.

3. **Infant Mortality.** During 1954 there were 2 deaths of infants under one year of age, equivalent to a mortality rate of 11 per 1,000 live births. The average infant mortality rate for the preceding five years was 32.4 per 1,000, the rate for the administrative County Area being 31.8 over the same period.

4. **Comparative Birth and Death Rates, 1954*.**

	Estimated home population mid 1954	Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of home population	Death Rate All Causes per 1,000 of home population	Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births
LANCASTER R.D.	12,470	14.8	13.6	11.0
Rural Districts (Lancs)	307,750	13.81	11.72	29.0
Administrative County (Lancs)	2,051,000	14.25	12.64	29.0
England & Wales	44,274,000	15.2	11.3	25.5

* These figures make no allowance for variations in the age and sex distributions of the population in the different areas.

5. **Deaths from Cancer.** It will be seen from the table on Page 15 that heart and circulatory diseases (items 18, 19, 20 and 21) accounted for 79 out of the total of 169 deaths from all causes. The next most important cause of death was cancer with 31 deaths (items 10-15).

The following table compares the yearly deaths ascribed to all forms of cancer with the total deaths in the district, over the last 20 years :—

Year	Total Deaths	Cancer Deaths	Percentage of Total
1935	136	19	14.0
1936	138	12	8.7
1937	147	14	9.5
1938	130	15	11.5
1939	121	5	4.1
1940	154	19	12.3
1941	148	25	16.9
1942	153	27	17.6
1943	165	22	13.3
1944	141	21	14.9
1945	155	24	15.5
1946	133	14	10.5
1947	141	15	10.6
1948	141	21	14.9
1949	153	14	9.2
1950	154	17	11.0
1951	164	21	12.8
1952	147	28	19.1
1953	130	26	20.0
1954	169	31	18.3

It should be noted that the figures before and after 1950 are not strictly comparable. Since 1950 deaths from Hodgkin's disease, leukaemia and aleukaemia have been added to the group of malignant diseases previously included under the heading of cancer.

6. Long-term Trends in Vital Statistics, 1901-1954. A much clearer picture of the long-term changes in the birth and death rates of the area can be obtained when the individual variations, which for statistical reasons may occur at irregular intervals, have been smoothed out, as in the table on Page 14. This shows the birth and death rates of Lancaster Rural District expressed as averages of each 10 year period between 1891-1950, and from these certain trends can be traced and conclusions drawn with reasonable safety. For example, the birth rate shows signs of becoming stabilised at a much lower level than obtained at the beginning of the century, whereas the death rate has remained comparatively stable throughout. Under these circumstances the annual excess of births over deaths has become insignificant, so that the increase in population, from 9,437 in 1931 to 12,055 in 1951, has been brought about in the main by migration into the area. Again, it will be noted that the death rate of infants at the turn of the century was 125 per 1,000 live births : fifty years later it was less than 40 and is still declining. The decided downward trend in mortality from respiratory tuberculosis is mentioned elsewhere in the report. By contrast the mortality from cancer (all forms) has shown an apparent increase, but in estimating its significance account must be taken of the ageing structure of the population as well as of the effect of improved facilities for diagnosis and treatment in saving or prolonging life. In general all these trends in the vital statistics of the District conform fairly closely to a similar pattern of changes for the country as a whole.

VITAL STATISTICS LANCASTER R.D.

The principal vital statistics for the six decennial periods between 1891 and 1950, together with those for each of the last four years, are given below :—

	Estimated population (all ages)	Live Births		Stillbirths		Deaths (all causes)		Infant Mortality		Maternal Mortality		Cancer (Deaths)		Respiratory Tuberculosis (Deaths)	
		No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 est. pop'n	No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 est. pop'n	No. of infant deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 live-births	No. of maternal deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 live & still-births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 est. pop'n	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 est. pop'n
Mean of 10 years															
1891-1900	13,224	374.4	28.3	§	§	217.5	16.4	46.7	125	§	§	§	§	16.3	1.23
1901-1910	8,937	199.7	22.3	§	§	120.2	13.4	19.4	97	§	§	5.8	0.65	6.4	0.72
1911-1920	*9,001)	165.3	18.4	§	§	120.5	13.8	13.7	83	0.6	§	10.9	1.25	5.2	0.61
	†8,702)														
1921-1930	9,332	161.5	17.3	§	§	120.3	12.9	9.6	59	0.6	§	11.6	1.24	4.2	0.45
1931-1940	*9,829)	135.7	13.8	6.6	46	135.2	13.7	7.8	57	1.0	7.03	15.4	1.56	4.9	0.50
	†9,857)														
1941-1950	11,002	165.3	15.0	3.6	21.4	148	13.5	6.5	39.4	0.4	2.37	20	1.82	2.6	0.24
1951	11,990	185	15.4	5	26	164	13.7	6	32	Nil	Nil	21	1.75	3	0.25
1952	12,050	173	14.4	3	17	147	12.2	5	29	Nil	Nil	28	2.32	2	0.17
1953	12,240	188	15.4	1	5	130	10.6	3	16	1	5.29	26	2.12	1	0.08
1954	12,470	184	14.8	3	16	169	13.6	2	11	Nil	Nil	31	2.49	2	0.16

* For calculation of birth-rate.

† For calculation of death-rate.

§ Not available.

NOTE—1. From 1950 deaths from Hodgkin's disease, leukaemia and aleukaemia are included in the total of cancer deaths.

2. The population estimates and numbers of registered deaths for the years 1940-1949, inclusive, relate to civilians only.

3. The decrease in population at the change of the century was due to boundary alterations.

CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR, 1954.

Number	M.	F.	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	—	2
2. Tuberculosis, other forms	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	1	—	1
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—	1
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	2	3	5
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	2	5
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast	—	4	4
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	—	—	—
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	10	6	16
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	1	1
16. Diabetes	1	—	1
17. Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	7	13	20
18. Coronary disease, Angina	27	16	43
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	2	3
20. Other Heart Diseases	7	20	27
21. Other Circulatory Diseases	5	1	6
22. Influenza	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	2	2	4
24. Bronchitis	3	—	3
25. Other diseases of Respiratory System	—	1	1
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—	—
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	2	3
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	3	—	3
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	2	1	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	8	10
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	1	3
34. All other Accidents	2	1	3
35. Suicide	1	—	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
Total deaths from all causes	85	84	169

DEATHS CLASSIFIED BY AGE GROUP AND PARISH — 1954.

PARISH	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-	75-	80+	Total
Ashton-w-Stodday											1	1			2
Bolton-le-Sands			1							1	5	14	7	11	39
Cockerham												1	2	1	4
Ellel										2	6	6	6	5	25
Heaton-w-Oxcliffe													2	1	3
Middleton												1	1		2
Overton											1	2			3
Over Wyresdale											3			1	4
Priest Hutton											1	1		1	3
Scotforth											1				1
Silverdale								1			3	7	5	3	19
Slyne-w-Hest	1									1	3	13	5	5	28
Thurnham												1		2	3
Warton	1					1			2		6	6	5	6	27
Yealand Conyers											3			1	4
Yealand Redmayne												1	1		2
TOTALS	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	4	33	54	34	37	169

EXTRACTS FROM DR. MIVART'S REPORT

“SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN LANCASTER R.D. IN 1901.”

It is often salutary to look into the past and much useful information can be gleaned from the records of earlier years. I have recently come across a report written in 1902 by Dr. F. St. George Mivart to the Local Government Board on the Sanitary Circumstances and Administration of the Lancaster Rural District. The Board obviously disturbed by the situation then existing in this district asked Dr. Mivart in September, 1901, to investigate matters. The rather appalling conditions described by Mivart existed only 53 years ago, well within memory of many people still alive to-day.

In describing housing conditions Mivart wrote :—“Faults of construction were much more numerous, and stress may especially be laid upon want of ventilation in bedrooms, or upon the juxtaposition of cesspits of filthy cowsheds to thin party walls of dwellings.”

After stating “The water supplies generally throughout the populous portions of the Rural District of Lancaster must be regarded as highly unsatisfactory,” he goes on to classify them into (1) Public water services, (2) Wells and dipping places, (3) Rain-water stored and (4) Streams, canals, ditches, etc., and gave the approximate number of houses which, in the three townships having public water services, derived their supply from the mains, viz, 408.

Under the heading of wells and dipping places the following passage occurs :—“A very large proportion of those concerning which I enquired must be deemed unsatisfactory . . . many so-called wells are really mere shallow holes, the sides of bare earth, and in many instances not only liable to pollution by the direct passage of filth . . . but also seen to be harbouring foul matters of various kinds. Some wells are, in a greater or less degree, affected by the tides.”

In those days stored rain water formed the ordinary source of supply in many localities and Dr. Mivart expressed concern at the manner in which this was collected and stored. The more careful inhabitants did boil or filter this rain water but the necessity for the changing of the charcoal was apparently not thought of. He sums up the position by saying :—

“In very few instances did the stored rain water which I examined appear clean or fit for use ; in most instances it was more or less fouled, and in not a few the water was offensive.”

In regard to streams, canals and ditches he remarks :— “ That these, the ultima ratio, so to speak, of water supplies should be resorted to at all, clearly shows the straits to which certain townships are reduced.” “ Cows and we drink together time and time again,” was an expression to be heard on more than one occasion in Cockerham township, where droughts frequently resulted in wells becoming dry and rain water exhausted. At Glasson Dock water was apparently largely obtained by dipping from the canal basin, and this was used by the inhabitants, by the children at school and by the ships calling there, despite the fact that this foul water had been condemned over and over again.

Dr. Mivart received many complaints concerning sewers and drains of one kind or another and three pages of his report are devoted to the defects found in them in nearly every part of the district. A few brief extracts from his report may be of interest :—

“ Speaking generally there is no ventilation of sewers other than through the road gratings, or the openings of untrapped drains. Where any means of flushing has been provided it appears to be inadequate. The south sewer at Warton, which receives water closet drainage as well as road and ground water, discharges into an open tank close to the high-road, and only a few yards from the dipping place, which is an important source of local water supply. The overflow of this sewage tank constantly contaminates the ground hereabouts, and is a grave danger as well as an admitted nuisance.”

Criticism of the leaking sewers at Galgate and Glasson Dock follow and he ends this paragraph thus :—

“ It is evident that the only remedy for these and other defective sewers is that they should be taken up and replaced by others of proper construction.”

Mivart goes on to comment on excrement and refuse disposal :—“ Except in better class houses, water closets are rarely met with, cesspit privies forming the most frequent means of excrement disposal . . . these often take the form of mere holes in the ground, and are frequently found within a very short distance of wells. In many instances these pits are close to the doors and windows of dwellings or adjacent to public pathways. In the same localities, and in Galgate, open midden privies exist ; in some cases these are against the walls of dwellings. . . . In the villages of Bolton, Warton, Galgate, Glasson, Overton and elsewhere much refuse was seen lying about, and frequently piled up in the vicinity of dwellings, or even against the walls.”

Mivart's report goes on to deal with slaughter houses, cow-sheds and dairies and the condition of these can best be described in his own words :—

“ No register of slaughter houses is kept, nor are there any bye-laws regulating them. All those visited by me were objectionable by reason of their uneven flooring, want of cleanliness, absence of water and proper drainage, and the like. . . . Although grazing and milk farming are the most important industries of the district, it may be stated generally, that the arrangements for the housing of cattle are very bad indeed. . . . Dairies are for the most part highly unsatisfactory, although there were comparatively few instances in which some effort to maintain cleanliness was not apparent.”

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
IN THE AREA.

(a) **Laboratory Facilities.** Specimens for bacteriological examination are sent to the Pathologist at the Lancaster Royal Infirmary. Analysis of food and drugs is carried out under the direction of the Lancashire County Council.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities.** Ambulance Services are administered by the Divisional Health Office of the Lancashire County Council, Health Division No. 2; Victoria House, Regent Street, Lancaster; the telephone number of the ambulance station is Lancaster 3311.

(c) **Domicilliary Services.** The services of District Nurses, Midwives, and Home Helps, to look after patients in their own homes, are provided by the Lancashire County Council, acting as the Local Health Authority. These services for the Lancaster Rural District are administered from the Divisional Health Office—address as above.

(d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics.** The following Centres and Clinics catering for the area have been established by the Lancashire County Council:—

School Clinics:

- (1) Market Street, Carnforth.
- (2) Thurnham House, Lancaster.

Child Welfare Centres:—

- (1) Market Street, Carnforth.
- (2) Memorial Hall, Hest Bank.
- (3) Parliament Street and Euston Road, Morecambe.
- (4) St. John's Ambulance Hall, Heysham.
- (5) The Village Institute, Galgate.
- (6) Parochial Hall, Preesall.

The following clinics are administered by the Lancaster and Kendal Hospital Management Committee:—

- (1) Tuberculosis—8, Middle Street, Lancaster.
- (2) Venereal Diseases—Special Treatment Centre, Royal Lancaster Infirmary.

(e) **Hospitals.**

Infectious Diseases:—Beaumont Hospital, at Slyne Road, Lancaster, is available and is administered by the Lancaster and Kendal Hospital Management Committee.

Smallpox cases would be notified to the secretary of the Lancaster and Kendal Hospital Management Committee, who would arrange for their disposal to a Smallpox Hospital.

Other Cases :—The Lancaster Royal Infirmary, The Queen Victoria Hospital, Morecambe, Lancaster Moor Hospital, Royal Albert Hospital, Bay View Hospital and three private nursing homes.

SECTION C.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.
NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)
CASES NOTIFIED — 1954.

Disease	All Ages	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65 and over
Scarlet Fever	6	—	1	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	45	—	4	6	33	2	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	14	—	4	5	4	—	1	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia (Primary and Influenzal)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Dysentery	6	—	—	—	4	—	1	—	1	—
Food Poisoning	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Total	74	—	9	12	46	3	3	—	1	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases Notified and Deaths Registered — 1954.

Age Periods— Years	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Other Forms		Respiratory		Other Forms	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
10-	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
15-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
25-	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
35-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	4	1	2	3	1	—	—	—

1. **Total Incidence.**

During 1954 infectious diseases as a whole were less prevalent than in 1953 ; including tuberculosis. 84 cases were notified as against 131 in the previous year.

2. **Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever.**

For the fourth year in succession not a single case of diphtheria has been notified in your district. The remarkable decline in the incidence of this disease over the past 15 years is largely due to the success of the immunisation campaign. There were 6 cases of scarlet fever as against 8 in 1953.

3. **Measles and Whooping Cough.**

45 cases of measles and 14 cases of whooping cough were notified during the year, as compared with 65 and 13 respectively for 1953.

4. **Poliomyelitis.**

Last year 3 cases of infantile paralysis were notified, but your district escaped this infection in 1954.

5. **Dysentery and Food Poisoning.**

Notifications of sonne dysentery in 1954 numbered 6, the largest incidence recorded in recent years. On the other hand food poisoning decreased from 28 cases in 1953 to 2 in the present year. In both the latter cases the casual agent identified was *Salmonella typhi-murium*.

6. **Tuberculosis.**

During 1954 there were two deaths from respiratory tuberculosis, one of which came to notice only after death. Mortality from all forms of tuberculosis continues to decline, and statistics for England and Wales as a whole show that deaths from this disease have declined by over 60 per cent in the last six years. Locally a similar downward trend is noticeable, as may be seen from the table on Page 14, which gives the mortality rates for respiratory tuberculosis in Lancaster Rural District from 1901.

In contrast the incidence of tuberculosis shows little evidence of declining either nationally or locally. Ten new cases were notified during 1954, one more than in the previous year. Reference to the table below will show that there has been no significant change in your district in the notification rate of either the respiratory or non-respiratory forms of this disease over the past 10 years. In these circumstances vigilance and the well-proven methods of prevention are still essential.

7. **Trend of Incidence of Infectious Diseases, 1945-54.**

In the table below the actual number of cases of certain infectious diseases notified each year from 1945-54 are compared.

INCIDENCE OF CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES LANCASTER R.D., 1945-54.

YEAR	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Measles	Whoop- ing Cough	Acute Polio- myelitis	Dysen- tery	Food Poison- ing	Resp. Tubercul- osis	Non-Resp. Tubercul- osis	Tubercul- osis (Other Forms)
1945	12	5	24	13	—	—	—	8	3	11
1946	3	3	4	5	—	—	—	15	1	16
1947	2	4	87	29	—	—	—	8	—	8
1948	8	—	40	3	1	—	—	9	4	13
1949	10	—	33	5	2	—	—	6	7	13
Mean of 5 years 1945-49	7.0	2.4	37.6	11.0	0.6	Nil	Nil	9.2	3.0	12.2
1950	9	1	46	20	2	1	—	12	2	14
1951	14	—	138	39	1	—	—	10	3	13
1952	12	—	13	9	—	2	—	10	4	14
1953	8	—	65	13	3	—	28	8	1	9
1954	6	—	45	14	—	6	2	5	5	10
Mean of 5 years 1950-54	9.8	0.2	61.4	19.0	1.2	1.8	6.0	9.0	3.0	12.0

The remarkable decline in the mortality of diphtheria, scarlet fever, measles and whooping cough over the last 10 years or more is well known, and this favourable change has been noted in local as well as in national statistics. Although these four common diseases of childhood have lost most of their terrors, they are all, with the exception of diphtheria as prevalent as ever. The table also indicates the increasing menace of poliomyelitis. Food poisoning made its first appearance in your district in 1953.

SECTION D.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES
OF THE AREA.

HOUSING.

Housing Schemes.

(1) At the end of 1954, post-war Council housing schemes had provided accommodation as detailed below :—

Bolton-le-Sands	74 houses and 20 flats.
Cockerham	10 houses.
Ellel	132 houses, 8 flats and 4 shops and houses.
Heaton-with-Oxcliffe	4 houses
Middleton	56 houses and 2 shops and houses.
Overton	14 houses
Over Wyresdale	2 houses
Priest Hutton	4 houses
Scotforth	4 houses
Silverdale	26 houses and 8 flats
Slyne-with-Hest	78 houses, 4 flats and 2 shops and houses
Thurnham	14 houses
Warton	76 houses and 16 flats
Yealand Redmayne	28 houses
Total (all Parishes)	522 houses
	56 flats
	8 shops and houses
Total number of post-war dwellings—end of 1954	586

Of this total number, 42 houses were built specifically for agricultural workers in ten Parishes.

During 1954, a further 19 houses were completed by the Council and 74 dwellings by private enterprise, that is a total of 93 dwellings.

The only Council scheme in hand at the end of 1954 was the block of 6 houses at Glasson Dock. No further schemes were then contemplated.

Inspections of Dwelling Houses.

Number of houses inspected under the provisions of the Housing Acts	394
Number of inspections involved	572
Number of houses found not in all respects fit	355
Number rendered fit after service of Notice	344
Number found to be unfit for human habitation	4
Number in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
Number in respect of which undertakings were accepted	1

Overcrowding. Nothing can be added to what has been said in previous years, overcrowding no longer presenting a serious problem. It is likely, of course, that an isolated case will be discovered from time to time, and it is felt that such cases should receive high priority, when a Council house in the locality becomes available for letting.

General Remarks. Of the 4071 occupied houses in the District at the end of the year, it is known that just under half that number have been built since the 1914-18 War and are therefore of comparatively modern design and having modern amenities. About half the remainder were built after 1875 when Building bye-laws were introduced, so that about a quarter of the total number of houses in the District are pre-bye-law. Most of the older property, however, is of substantial design and construction, being stone built with slated roofs and is considered to be "capable of being made fit," since the worst of this class has already been demolished. In most cases there is ample open space available for any proposed improvement works involving extensions. It is known that there remain some 30 or so houses, which are unfit for human habitation and incapable of being made fit at reasonable expense, but in many of these cases it is felt that, having regard to certain special circumstances the policy should be to take the necessary formal action at the end of the present tenancy. This applies mainly where the tenant or owner/occupier is getting on in years and has spent the greater part of his or her life in the house under consideration. Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954, requires Local Authorities to submit to the Minister of Housing and Local Government, by 31st August, 1955, their proposals for dealing with unfit houses. For that purpose a survey is being carried out and full details will be reported to you during 1955. It will then be possible to ascertain exactly which unfit dwellings require immediate formal action with a view to demolition or closing.

Regarding applicants for Council houses, the number of accepted applications at the year-end remained at about 60, with 6 Houses under construction. 77 houses or flats became vacant and were re-let to waiting applicants during 1954. The bulk of these lettings were to young married couples and also to a number of families who have taken up permanent work and residence in the District.

Towards the end of the year a steady flow of applications for improvement grants under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1949, had commenced. By the year-end 16 applications involving 18 dwellings had been considered and grants were approved in 14 cases,

involving 15 dwellings. In all cases the applicants were owner/occupiers and the improvements approved included mainly the provision of bath-rooms, hot water supply systems, internal sanitation, improvements to ventilation and natural lighting, installation of drainage systems where none existed, provision of food-stores, replacement of obsolete fire-places and structural work to combat dampness. There is every reason to believe that a great deal of good will result from "operation salvage" within this District, as the provisions of the Act become more widely known, and the completed improvements more widely seen by other owners.

The coming into operation of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, appeared to have little effect in the District. It is not known how many rents were increased but only five applications for certificates of disrepair were made by tenants. Four of these were granted, but the disrepair was not extensive and was quickly remedied by the Owners in order to bring about the cancellation of the certificates.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The following Authorities supply water in the district:—

Lancaster Corporation. The Parishes of Scotforth, Slyne-with-Hest, Bolton-le-Sands, Middleton, Overton, most of the Parish of Warton, part of Ashton-with-Stodday; and by agreement with the Morecambe and Heysham Corporation part of Heaton-with-Oxcliffe is supplied from the mains of that Corporation which supply Heysham, the rest of the Parish being supplied from the Lancaster Corporation mains.

Fylde Water Board. The Parishes of Cockerham, Thurnham, and part of Ashton-with-Stodday.

Lancaster Rural District Council. This Council purchases water in bulk from the Thirlmere Pipe Line and supplies the Parishes of Ellel, Priest Hutton, Yealand Conyers, Yealand Redmayne, a small part of Warton and Silverdale.

Part of the Parish of Over Wyresdale is supplied by private mains which are the property of the Earl of Sefton.

Origin and Particulars of Water.

Lancaster Corporation. The water supplied by the Lancaster Corporation is Moorland Water from the gathering grounds in Over Wyresdale. It is subjected to mechanical filtration and chlorination at Langthwaite and Scotforth Filter Houses before distribution and is also treated to bring it to seven degrees of hardness from its original state of about 2 degrees. The Corporation have also a connection to the Thirlmere Pipe Line.

The water supplied to the Warton Parish is obtained from the Reservoir at Withets. The gathering ground is of a Moorland nature but is liable to animal pollution. The Corporation, however, provides an effective and modern chlorination and filtration plant and the bacteriological analyses have shown the water to be good when supplied to the consumer. There is also a connection to the Thirlmere Pipe Line.

Fylde Water Board. This is also Moorland Water from the gathering grounds in the Pennine Range.

Lancaster Rural District Council. The water obtained from the Thirlmere Pipe line is from Moorlands and of about 2 degrees of hardness. It is understood that rough screening and chlorination takes place near its source. Considerable trouble is experienced

by the incrustation of iron mains and services and the discolouration of the water by Ferric Hydroxide. The latter while not injurious to health can at times render the water almost unpalatable. Apart from any question of treating the water the best remedy for this trouble is the use of cement lined or cement-asbestos pipes. Galvanised iron services have a very limited life of about seven years and the only reasonable substitute, lead, must be used with discretion as the water is at times liable to be plumbo-solvent in action.

The length of main between Hampson Lane end and Salt Oak in the Parish of Ellel, was found to be corroded, following a complaint of discolouration and inadequacy of supply. This pipe was re-laid, and it is intended to extend so as to connect up with the existing main fed from the Bay Horse end at Stirzakers Farm, so to form a link main. The work is now in progress.

New Services. During the year 93 services to new houses have been laid.

A main supply is now provided to 3,635 houses, being rather more than 89% of all the houses in the District. The remaining 436 houses obtain supplies from other sources such as wells, springs, etc.

Sampling of Tap Water. One sample of tap water from the Council's main supply was taken for bacteriological examination and was reported satisfactory. One sample was taken from the source of a proposed private supply and was found to be unsatisfactory. The proposal was abandoned. Six samples of tap water from the Lancaster Corporation main in Scotforth Parish were taken for chemical analysis. The supply in this area is untreated, and it was found that the acid nature of the water was causing slight cupro-solvency, 0.2 parts per million of copper being reported in samples taken from the hot water supply system of one dwelling house. Necessary advice was given to the householders concerned.

Prevention of Waste. This important work has been continued with encouraging results. An additional flow recording chart has been installed in the Priest Hutton meter house in order to give better control in the length of main between Priest Hutton and Silverdale meter houses. During the year 417 tests on lengths of main and house services were made and except for the frosty period at the beginning of the year, consumption was maintained at a normal level in the two areas of supply.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Details of the methods of drainage and sewage disposal are as follows:—

Cockerham. Cockerham village and Housing Site is sewered and the sewage treated by means of a septic tank and rotary filter. The effluent is disposed of into the land drainage dykes. The excessive volume of Sewage during storm periods has been the cause of a great deal of trouble with this plant.

Surveys have indicated that it would not be practicable to gravitate the effluent into the tidal part of the River Cocker. It is realised however that the plant is over-loaded, particularly as regards the filter bed and until such time as a scheme can be implemented to improve conditions at these works, there appears to be an obligation upon the Council to periodically clean out the length of dyke affected by the silting of humus from the unsatisfactory effluent. A system of baffles is to be introduced in the dyke, in an endeavour to localise the silting, and so reduce costs of cleaning the dyke.

Thurnham (Higher Thurnham). No details have been obtained of the disposal of the drainage from the few houses at the hamlet of Higher Thurnham, nor is effluent visible at any point. Lower Thurnham is sewered but the crude sewage discharges into the drainage dykes. A proposed scheme for the construction of a small disposal plant was approved by the Ministry, in conjunction with a proposal to erect four houses for agricultural workers. It was later found, however, that there was no demand for the houses and at least for the time being, the sewage disposal scheme is held up.

Glasson Dock is sewered and the crude sewage is discharged into the sea. Extensions to the third housing site have been completed.

Ellel. Galgate is sewered and the sewage is conveyed by means of a long pipe to discharge in the tidal portion of the River Conder at Conder Green. A little trouble is experienced at times owing to blockages in the long outfall pipe mainly due to the growth of roots through joints that have not been properly made. The installation of pumping plant and construction of a modern sewage works for this village will have to be considered ultimately.

Dolphinholme is sewered and the sewage treated by means of septic tank and rotary percolating filter and the effluent discharged into the River Wyre.

During the year, as a result of the abnormal rainfall, a "slip" occurred in the hill-side where the sewage tank and sludge beds were sited, and the installation was cracked beyond any hope of repair. A new site near Common Bank Farm was found, and agreement was reached with the Surveyor of Lands to the Duchy of Lancaster for its use. A new tank and pipe line were constructed, and brought into operation before the end of the year.

Over Wyresdale. This Parish being of a scattered nature (1 person to 45 acres) has no drainage system, and no pollution has been found.

Middleton. Most of this Parish is now sewered. All sewers from the village and the four Council housing sites drain to the pumping station near Garden Terrace, which ejects the sewage via a rising main and gravitating sewer to the sewage works at Middleton Tower Holiday Camp.

These works are now grossly over-loaded and the effluent is very unsatisfactory during the Summer months. At present it is disposed of into an open dyke which flows some 2 miles to discharge into the Lune estuary. The open dykes are thus badly polluted, especially so, when as frequently occurs, there is no flow, other than the effluent, in the dykes, so that no dilution takes place.

The scheme to construct a new pumping station at the works, and lay a rising main to connect to the 18in. diameter iron sea outfall pipe which serves the Factory Area, for the disposal of the treated effluent, has received full Ministry approval, and work is now in progress. It is anticipated that the new method of disposal will be in operation before the end of 1955.

Heaton-with-Oxcliffe. The old factory area at White Lund is properly drained but unfortunately when it was sold off in lots no steps were taken to preserve the pumping plant.

Consideration has already been given to a possible link up with the Morecambe Corporation sewerage scheme, in order to sewer the factory area, but it was apparent that the limited usefulness of such a scheme did not justify the high costs involved. It is to be hoped, however, that an alternative link up will be available for consideration in the near future, with a view to sewerage the White Lund Hill and Oxcliffe Road residential areas.

Overton. Piped sewers exist in Overton but no treatment is given to the outfall which discharges into a main drainage dyke some 100 yards from its junction with the tidal portion of the River Lune. This drainage dyke passes near to the highway at the

Globe Hotel and it is at times objectionable. It is recommended that full treatment be given to this sewage as early as possible.

This could be achieved quite simply by means of a pumping station and rising main laid to connect to the existing rising main near Garden Terrace, Middleton. The sewage would thus pass through the Middleton Sewage Works. Such a proposal, however, must wait until the question of disposal of effluent from the works has been effectively dealt with.

Sunderland Point in this Parish has a few private outfall pipes discharging direct into the tidal River Lune. It is considered that this method of disposal is satisfactory.

Scotforth. This Parish is also of a scattered nature (1 person to $8\frac{1}{2}$ acres) and has no drainage system.

Ashton-with-Stodday. There is no sewage scheme for this Parish which has only 25 houses in it.

Slyne-with-Hest. The greatest part of this parish is sewered and the sewage treated at the works at Hest Bank. A small portion of this parish, adjoining the junction of Hest Bank Lane with the main road, is not sewered, but each house has its own septic tank and filter, for the maintenance of which the individual occupier is responsible.

In last year's report attention was drawn to the need for a public sewer, in the following words:—"It is to be hoped that circumstances will eventually allow the sewerage of this and other areas in the District, together with the construction of the necessary pumping plants and rising mains, to link up with existing gravitating sewers. In 1951 such outline proposals were indefinitely postponed by the Ministry, so that at least for the time being, the best will have to be made of existing conditions."

Although no pollution of water courses is possible in normal times, many of these private sewage disposal systems became totally submerged and ineffective for considerable periods owing to the flood water which affected this locality in the latter part of 1954. They were kept under observation, and it was found that they quickly recovered their functioning capacity as the flood waters subsided. This incident, however, which caused no small worry and inconvenience to a number of householders, emphasises the potential danger to public health which may arise, and lends urgency to the need for proceeding with a scheme to sewer this and other similar areas.

Bolton-le-Sands. The greater part of this Parish is sewered, the sewage being discharged crude into the mill race channel on the tidal foreshore at the end of St. Nicholas Lane. This outlet, while it does not cause a nuisance, is not up to the modern standards of Sewage Disposal, and it is suggested that some form of treatment, or settlement of solids be given to the sewage before it is discharged.

St. Michael's Lane and part of the Coastal Road is not sewered, the property being drained into septic tanks with filters and cesspools.

The private enterprise housing development scheme now in progress on the St. Michael's Lane Site, has necessitated the construction of a sewage ejector station and rising main. The Council has laid sewers to connect with this ejector station, so that at some future date it will be possible to sewer some 12 or more houses, at present draining to septic tanks. This work might have been completed already, but the response of the several owners to the Council's request for contributions towards the costs involved was not considered satisfactory, and the proposal has been deferred.

During the year sur-charging of the main sewer at the North end of the village was continuous over a long period, and back-flow of sewage via a number of domestic drainage systems into yards and gardens became a very serious problem. Surveys were carried out, and it became apparent that the quite inadequate gradient of the main sewer was the cause of the trouble. A scheme was prepared immediately for the construction of a 15in. diam. relief sewer, to be laid in the fields on the Westerly side of the North end of the village, to join the existing 18in. diam. outfall pipe in St Nicholas Lane. This scheme was submitted to the Ministry, and has received full approval. It is anticipated that the work will be completed before the end of 1955.

Warton. The Millhead portion of Warton is sewered and the sewage disposed of to the Carnforth Works. The remainder of the Parish, with the exception of the Western end of Sands Lane, is also sewered and disposed of crude into the semi-tidal waters of the River Keer. It is recommended that at some future date steps be taken to provide some form of treatment for the sewage before it is discharged into the river.

A new tidal valve has been fitted at the end of the sewer outfall pipe, prior to the point of discharge into tidal water, with a view to preventing the "back-flooding" of the system, which occurs during periods of high tides. There will still be sur-charging during

storm periods, and it would seem that very little can be done to prevent this until a complete scheme for the pumping and treatment of the sewage has been implemented.

Yealand Conyers. There are no public sewers in this small Parish. The largest group of houses are, however, drained into a septic tank with rotary percolating filter. No pollution of water courses takes place. Several cesspools are emptied by the Council at the request of the owners and the contents disposed of on the land.

Yealand Redmayne. The Housing Site and part of the village is sewered to a disposal tank, which drains into a duplicate system of land drains.

A suitable site for a new effluent disposal area has been found, and the land acquired for this purpose.

Priest Hutton. There is no public drainage system for this Parish. All the property is drained into cesspools or septic tanks and filters. Pollution of the stream which passes through the village takes place from some of these.

Silverdale. The whole of Silverdale being built on solid rock has no public sewers, with the exception of the system draining the housing site and a few properties adjoining. Each house has its own cesspool and regular arrangements exist for emptying the cesspools and disposing of the contents on the land. This arrangement has proved very satisfactory and very few complaints are received.

GENERAL.

There are 3,385 houses on the water carriage system, 2,505 being connected to the sewers and 880 to cesspools, etc. There are also 699 premises which have closets other than water closets.

The policy of the Council to order the conversion of any closet to a water closet and to contribute half the cost of the work involved, as laid down under the provisions of Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, has been pursued almost to its limit since the war. During that period 195 closets have been converted, but in 1954 only three conversions were made. This figure will not greatly increase until further extensions to existing sewerage systems have been carried out.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The whole of the District is scavenged by direct labour, four motor vehicles being normally in use, and two others available when called upon. It is possible to maintain fairly regularly, a fortnightly collection.

Four controlled tips are in regular use, and in addition, one small tip as a “ reserve ” when access to the “ Over-Lune ” area tip is barred by high tides. The details of the tipping arrangements are as follows :—

- 1. All Parishes to the North of Lancaster. Controlled tip at Cote Stones, Warton. Tipping space available for many years.
- 2. “ Over-Lune ” part of the District (i.e. Parishes of Heaton-with-Oxcliffe, Middleton and Overton).

Controlled tip on the tidal marsh between Sunderland Point and Overton, where proper access has been formed, sub-drains laid, and a barrier is being formed. The scheme not only provides tipping space for several generations but also will result in the reclamation of some 16 acres of land.

- 3. Parishes to the South of Lancaster.

The bulk of the refuse from these parishes is deposited on the newly acquired controlled tip near Parkside, in the Parish of Ashton-with-Stodday. Here again, there is sufficient capacity to serve for many years.

- 4. The remainder, largely from the Abbeystead and Dolphinholme areas, is tipped at Mainstones Quarry in the Parish of Ellel, which is another large site.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS (excluding visits made in connection with Housing Act matters as detailed on Page 27).

Premises visited or purpose of visit.	No. of visits.
Houses—Public Health matters	195
Re Water Supplies	20
Re Drains or Sewers	366
Re Infectious Diseases	107
Caravan Sites	50
Factories and Workshops	27
Ice-cream Premises	43
Other food Premises	68
Visits re Meat inspection	82
Miscellaneous visits	190
Total number of visits	1148

In addition 350 visits of inspection to buildings in course of construction, and 417 visits or tests in connection with the detection of wastage of water were made during the year.

Number of defects or nuisances discovered	455
Number of defects remedied or nuisances abated	450
Number of Informal Notices served	24
Number of Formal Notices served	9
Legal Proceedings	Nil

Camping Sites. During 1954, there were 16 licensed sites for moveable dwellings and 11 caravans licensed “individually.” In all, at the height of the Summer Season, there were approximately 1,100 moveable dwellings stationed within the District, and the maximum number of occupiers at any one time was probably rather more than 2,000 persons. 50 visits of inspection were made during the year, and generally, the sites continued to be well conducted.

Schools. The Sanitary conditions of the 17 schools within the District is good on the whole for a rural area but I cannot too often repeat, that every endeavour should be made by the responsible authorities, to provide a water carriage system of sanitation for the five schools still without this amenity. It is pleasing to report, in this connection, that progress is being made in respect of four of these schools. Schemes have been prepared for the Church of England schools at Priest Hutton, Abbeystead, and Yealand Redmayne and for the Bolton-le-Sands Roman Catholic School, and in the two latter cases tenders for the work are being obtained. The fifth of these schools—Glasson Dock Church of England—can only be provided with a water carriage system, by means of an ejector station and rising main back to the main sewer serving the Glasson Dock Council houses, thus involving expenditure in the region of £1,200 for drainage only.

Nevertheless, it must be assumed, that this school is no less essential to the village community than any other in the district, and the replacement of its sub-standard sanitation should not be delayed.

The following improvements were carried out during 1954 at the schools detailed :—

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| (i) New Urinals | Bolton-le-Sands Church of England. |
| (ii) Additional washing-up facilities | Glasson Dock Church of England. |
| (iii) New Urinals and an additional W.C. | Overton Church of England. |

Regarding water supplies, all but one school are supplied from public mains. The remaining school at Abbeystead is fed from a private supply which can be regarded as satisfactory.

Swimming Baths. There are no public baths in the district, but two privately owned. Owing to the exceptionally inclement weather, only one of these, that at the Middleton Tower Holiday Camp, was used during 1954. Two samples of this bath water were taken for bacteriological examination, and both were reported "satisfactory."

Smoke Abatement. There are seven factory and works chimneys in the district (excluding Messrs. Trimpell Ltd., and I.C.I. Ltd.) and no action has been necessary regarding smoke abatement.

Canal Boats. There are a few Canal Boats which pass through the district but these are inspected by the Lancaster Corporation. No further action is taken by this authority.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades carried on in this district.

Common Lodging Houses. There is one common lodging House at Millhead, Warton. The general standard is fair. Inspections were frequently made during the year and notices served in order to maintain a reasonable standard.

Underground Sleeping Rooms and Houses Let in Lodgings. There are none in the district.

Shops and Offices: Inspection and Supervision carried out by the Lancashire County Council Shops Acts Inspectors.

**Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces
(Factories Act, 1937).**

Number of Inspections	27
Number of Written Notices	Nil
Prosecutions	Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk. As from the 1st October, 1949, the Food and Drugs (Milk & Dairies) Act 1944, became operative and the inspection and supervision of dairy-farms was taken over by the Ministry of Agriculture. The Chief Milk Advisory Officer of the Lancashire Agricultural Executive Committee, at Government Buildings, Cop Lane, Penwortham, is now the responsible Officer for these matters. The Local Authority is still responsible for the registration and supervision of dairies other than dairy-farms and of distributors of milk, including the issuing of Dealer's Licences to use certain special designations. In effect, the Local Authority is now able to concen-

trate upon conditions affecting the milk to be consumed within the District, and a systematic programme of milk sampling for bacteriological and T.B. examination has been in operation since the beginning of 1950. The tabulated details of the bacteriological reports for the year 1954, are given below :—

(a) Raw Milk.

(i) Tuberculosis-biological tests.

No. of samples, 128. No Positive, Nil.

No. Negative, 111.

No result, 17.

(ii) Bacteriological examinations—B. Coli.

No. of samples, 130. No. satisfactory, 124.

No. unsatisfactory, 6.

(iii) Methylene Blue reduction test :

No. of samples, 130. No. satisfactory, 107.

No. unsatisfactory, 23

(b) Heat treated Milk.

(i) Phosphatase test.

No. of samples, 13. No. satisfactory, 13.

No. unsatisfactory, Nil.

(ii) Methylene Blue reduction test.

No. of samples, 13. No. satisfactory, 13.

No. unsatisfactory, Nil.

It is pleasing to note that there were no “ positive ” T.B. biological reports upon the 128 samples of raw milk submitted during the year.

At the same time, there is still room for improvement with regard to the keeping quality of raw milk, as revealed by bacteriological and methylene blue tests.

Once again all samples of Pasteurised milk taken during the year, were found to have been effectively heat-treated and satisfactory as regards keeping quality.

Repeated unsatisfactory B. Coli or Methylene Blue reduction tests are reported to the Ministry of Agriculture Milk Advisory Officer who arranges for an inspection to be carried out at the farm involved and for advice to be given where necessary. It is noticeable that the improvement which follows is usually maintained for a long period.

Ice-Cream. There are now eight premises in the district registered for the manufacture and sale of ice-cream, and twenty-three for the sale only of that commodity. 43 visits were made to these premises, 20 of which were to manufacturing establishments.

26 samples were taken for bacteriological examination, 14 of which were reported "Grade 1," 7 "Grade 2," 3 "Grade 3," and 2 "Grade 4." The Grade 3 and 4 samples were mainly from one manufacturing premises, where detailed inspection of methods and plant revealed the cause of the trouble, and immediate remedial action was taken by the proprietor, with subsequent satisfactory results.

Meat. During the year two private slaughterhouses, one at Cockerham and one at Silverdale, were licensed, and were brought into use on July 1st. From that date until the year-end 82 visits were made for the purpose of meat inspection. Tabulated details of the carcasses inspected are given below. It is pleasing to report, that a very high standard of quality was maintained by both butchers during the period under review.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	38	19	4	289	48
Number inspected	38	19	4	289	48
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	7	5	Nil	27	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	18.42	26.32	Nil	9.34	2.08
Tuberculosis only :— Whole carcasses condemned :	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	2.63	5.26	Nil	Nil	Nil
Number of carcasses found to be affected with cysticercus bovis	Nil	Nil	Nil	—	—

Other Food Premises. A list of the various types of food premises within the District at the year-end is given below. During 1954, 68 visits of inspection were made, mainly to cafes, hotel kitchens and other such catering establishments. The standard of cleanliness, etc., is excellent in quite a number of cases, good in the bulk of the remainder, but definitely below par in some instances. This was the first year since the War when it was possible to give real attention to this type of work, but it is felt that systematic inspections must continue, in order to raise and maintain a standard of which all could be really proud.

List of Food Premises.

General grocers and provision dealers	34
Greengrocers and fruiterers	2
Fishmongers	1
Meat Shops	7
Bakers and confectioners	5
Fried fish shops	4
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc.	16
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, etc.	50
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	119
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Adulteration. This part of food inspection is dealt with by the Lancashire County Council.

Bakehouses. There are six Bakehouses in the district, and their condition is satisfactory.

Rodent Control Work. One part time operator is employed and it is found that he is kept busy on about four afternoons each week. No charge is made for treatment of domestic premises, but for all other premises accounts are rendered on a "time and materials" basis. The service is becoming more widely known and the work therefore tending to increase. Up to now, however, the present arrangements appear to be adequate and economic as regards the costs involved. In all during the year treatment was given at 226 premises, involving 514 visits. Of these premises 52 were dwelling houses, 2 were business premises and 172 were properties owned by the Council.

